

Art Unit: 2862  
Serial No: 09/900,750  
Examiner: Snow, Walter E.

REMARKS

Claims 2-12, 14, 16, 17, 19, and 21-25 were examined. By present amendment, claim 17 has been canceled. Thus, after entry of this Amendment, claims 2-12, 14, 16, 19, and 21-25 will be pending in the application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowance of the Examiner's indication that claims 2-12, 14, 16, 19 - 25 were allowed. Applicant notes that claim 20 was previously canceled. Accordingly, Applicant believes the allowable claims are 2-12, 14, 16, 19, and 21-25.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,567,435 to Yamada et al. (Yamada).

Without acceding to the correctness of the Patent Office's position, and in the interest of furthering prosecution of the application, Applicant has canceled claim 17.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

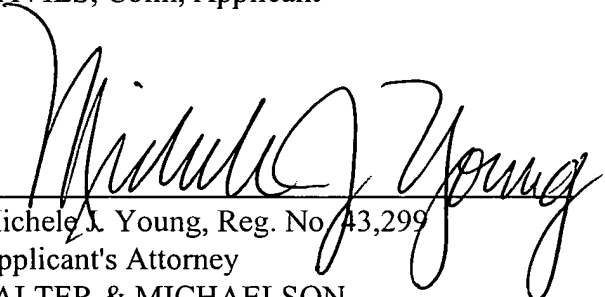
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims pending in the above-identified application are in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If the present application is found by the Examiner not to be in condition for allowance, then the Applicant hereby requests a telephone or personal interview to facilitate the resolution of any remaining matters. Applicant's attorney may be contacted by telephone at the number indicated below to schedule such an interview.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is authorized to charge any additional fees incurred as a result of the filing hereof or credit any overpayment to our deposit account #19-0120.

Respectfully submitted,  
DAVIES, Colin, Applicant

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By:   
Michele J. Young, Reg. No. 43,299  
Applicant's Attorney  
SALTER & MICHAELSON  
321 South Main Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903  
Telephone: 401/421-3141  
Facsimile : 401/861-1953  
Customer No. 000987